



USAID
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CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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USAID activities in the Central Asian Republics have assisted countries in developing extensive greenhouse gas mitigation and energy efficiency projects. Primarily through training and technical assistance, USAID continues to support the region in these endeavors and is helping them move toward a more stable post-Soviet existence.

Background. The Central Asian Republics (CAR) consist of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These countries of Central Asia are crucial allies in the war on terrorism and could help diversify world energy supplies. The overarching goal of U.S. foreign policy for the five nations is stable, Western-oriented development to ensure access to the region's substantial oil, gas, and mineral resources, and to prevent the expansion of radicalism and trafficking in weapons and narcotics. All countries in the region have a vital stake in improved management of water sources, which are absolutely essential to the agricultural and energy supply sectors, as well in ecological issues posed by the disappearing Aral Sea.

In the realm of climate change, Kazakhstan is the 30th largest emitter of carbon dioxide worldwide.¹ Uzbekistan is also a significant carbon emitter. All of the CAR have significant oil and gas, electric power, and natural resources management needs. USAID therefore considers the CAR a key climate change region.

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. USAID/CAR has experienced success in Kazakhstan through climate change policy development. Technical assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan helped establish and fund a Climate Change Office. This office serves as a national coordinating body for all United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change activities; evaluates and registers all greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation projects in Kazakhstan; and provides technical assistance. The Climate Change Office was involved in preparing the National Energy Saving Program, the Law on Climate Change, and the Law on Air. In addition to its climate change-related technical assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan, USAID sponsors training seminars related to GHG mitigation projects, project financing, and the issuance of nature use permits.

To address issues of energy efficiency, USAID technical assistance provides training in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on regulatory practices, principles, and development processes. For example, technical assistance was provided for an assessment of a jointly implemented hydropower project in Kazakhstan currently under construction. USAID conducts many capacity-building activities to improve heating efficiencies and

¹ Total emission ranking adapted from "Climate and Atmosphere" table of WRI's Earth Trends Environmental Information Portal, available at: <http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/index.cfm?theme=3&CFID=368722&CFTOKEN=31724535>. Ranking based on 1999 fossil fuel emission levels.

USAID's partners in climate change activities in CAR include*:

- The British Embassy
- British Petroleum
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Kazakhstan Electricity Association
- Kyrgyzstan State Energy Agency
- Meerim (charity of the First Lady of Kyrgyzstan Mairam Akaeva)
- Ministry of Environmental Protection (MNREP)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

reduce power demands in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. USAID technical assistance in Kyrgyzstan strengthened the development of a national energy strategy. The current National Energy Plan was examined with the objective of improving it with the help of the public. A plan has been developed by the Kyrgyzstan State Energy Agency, with a focus on independence and further development of national energy sources.

USAID/CAR provides technical assistance for various energy and industrial pilot projects. These projects range from thermal energy efficiency utilization to winterization programs that regulate heat flow. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, USAID/CAR conducted a feasibility study to improve a hydro dam in Osh region, which would provide a less costly and more environmentally friendly source of electric power. USAID is funding public awareness campaigns to involve the local community in planning for this proposed project. The venture is being backed by many donors and has obtained \$125,000 in contributions from the local community and several nongovernmental organizations.

For more information on USAID's climate change activities in CAR, visit the USAID Web site at:

- <http://www.usaid.gov>